

DRAFT Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Summary
June 6, 2008

Participants		
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DEQ Staff		
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Other Agencies		
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1. Welcome and introductions.

Overview of agenda

Handouts:

Agenda

Funding Options for Michigan Recycling Programs

June 2008 Solid Waste Update

SWAC Legislation Tracking Table

George Bruchmann welcomed the participants and gave an update of the current budget situation.

2. Approve draft meeting summary.

The February 22, 2008, meeting summary was approved. The DRAFT heading will be removed from the minutes on the Web site.

3. Standing Agenda Items.

- a. Legislative Update: The legislative tracking table was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that SB 1308 amending Part 121, Liquid Industrial Waste, has been signed by the Governor and is now PA 153. It was asked if the Department's position on bills could also be included in the Legislative Tracking Table. The DEQ is unable to include the department's position because in most situations the DEQ does not formulate a formal position on bills. Committee members also expressed frustration that substitute bills could not be found online, and committee agendas are not always accurate. Staff advised members to contact the Committee Chair's staff to request that they be included on notices regarding specific bills.

The Committee was also asked if it is beneficial for staff to send notices to the SWAC e-mail list regarding upcoming committee hearings if bills that have been discussed in the SWAC will be taken up. Committee members seemed to agree that this would be beneficial.

Rhonda provided an update on the planning amendments and changes to the planning process. Staff is unsure of the level of administrative changes that can be made to the plan format without legislative approval. A suggestion was made to create a workgroup to discuss some of the controversial issues. Staff will continue to work on revised legislation containing the "non-controversial" changes to Part 115.

- b. Report on Past Actions/Rulemaking

Compost and Inert Rules: A stakeholder meeting will be held in July or August to discuss the proposed compost and inert rules.

PA 212 Composting Regulations: 65 compost facilities are currently registered with the DEQ. Staff continues to work on compliance assistance with these and other sites who do not need to register or who have not yet registered. Michigan Department of Agriculture is also working with farms to register composting operations, however it is unknown how many sites are currently registered. It was suggested that staff work with Farm Bureau to get the word out to farms. It was also noted that in Southeast Michigan three new compost facilities have opened since March 26, 2008. It was asked if staff is examining the capacity of compost available vs. the demand.

4. Solid Waste Policy Discussion Topic: Utilization

Staff gave a presentation on utilization and measurement that outlined what we need to measure, what information we currently have, what information we still need, ways to get the information we need, and tools to track the information once we get it.

SWAC responses to questions raised in the presentation and questions and comments raised by SWAC members throughout the presentation:

- What is the universe of material that is counted? The Biocycle survey shows standard recycling rates using EPA methodology.
- How will energy recovery be counted in utilization measurement? One possibility is to calculate a standard BTU potential and divide by the BTUs produced.
- How can energy recovery be found when Type II and Type III amounts are reported together? It was suggested that a standard metric of average BTU potential for an MSW stream would be needed to tease out Type II and Type III figures.
- How can we figure out a standard generation rate? We could model the amount of waste that should come from the population and compare it to the Annual Solid Waste Receipt Report.
- It was noted that recycling reject numbers should be included in the Annual Solid Waste Receipt Report so this isn't a measurement issue.
- It was noted that the cost of using Re-Trac for a five year program would cost \$643 per county.
- A suggestion was made that the solid waste surcharge not be increased, but instead there be a processing fee placed on recyclables managed at Materials Recovery Facilities.
- A comment was made that a surcharge on recyclables defies economic standards.
- Immediately after the meeting, because we ran out of time during the

meeting, a comment was made that general fund support should be looked at to fund recycling data collection.

The committee supported the idea of using the planning process to facilitate the development of utilization programs. The committee also agreed to create a subcommittee to further look into the utilization issues and report back at the next meeting. Volunteers for the utilization subcommittee are: Jim Frey, Mike Csapo, Cara Clore, and Steve Essling.

A planning subcommittee will also be created to discuss the planning amendments and how utilization can fit into the planning process. Volunteers for the planning subcommittee are: Jim Frey, Tom Frazier, Patty O'Donnell and Cara Clore. It was also suggested that staff contact Tom Hickson from Michigan Association of Counties.

Staff will contact each subcommittee to set dates and times for meetings.

5. Next Meeting Items:
 - Reports back from subcommittees

The comment was made that the meetings seem too far apart. The committee agreed to begin holding meetings every two months, beginning after the September meeting. It was also suggested that meetings be held the same time each month.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2008.

Other proposed meeting dates are: November 7, 2008 and January 9, 2009.